



May 6, 2010

Mr. Ron Hodsdon, Chairman
Town of Pownal Planning Board
Mallett Hall
429 Hallowell Road
Pownal, ME 04069

**RE: Supplemental Information Filing
Central Maine Power Company - Maine Power Reliability Program**

Dear Mr. Hodsdon:

TRC, on behalf of Central Maine Power Company (CMP), is pleased to submit this supplemental information filing in response to additional questions raised by the Pownal Planning Board at the April 21, 2010 meeting. This supplemental filing addresses the following topics:

1. Surowiec Substation Vegetation Buffer Plan;
2. Tree clearing avoidance along Allen Road;
3. Replacement Reactor Specifications;
4. CMP Annual Substation Sound Monitoring Commitment;
5. Herbicide Spraying Notification Procedures;
6. Updated Substation Site Plan; and
7. Updated Runaround Brook Restoration Plan.

1. Surowiec Substation Vegetation Buffer Plan

The Board has requested additional details on the proposed vegetative buffer at the Surowiec Substation. In response, CMP's landscape architecture consultant (Terrence J. DeWan & Associates) has prepared a buffer planting plan and associated narrative for the substation. The buffer planting plan and narrative are provided in Attachment 1 of this letter.

2. Tree clearing avoidance along Allen Road

At the request of the Board, CMP has been evaluating whether the temporary alignment of the 345 kV transmission line (Section 375) located north of the substation can be adjusted so that the stand of white pine trees located along the western side of Allen Road are not cleared. CMP has determined that the temporary alignment can be adjusted to avoid these trees along Allen Road. This change has been incorporated into the MPRP design and a new drawing showing the revised transmission line alignment at this location is provided in Attachment 2 of this letter.

3. Replacement Reactor Specifications

The Board requested a copy of the engineering specifications for the new replacement reactors proposed at the Surowiec Substation. CMP has provided a copy of the replacement reactor specifications as Attachment 3 to this letter.

4. CMP Annual Substation Sound Monitoring Commitment

CMP has been conducting annual sound level monitoring at the Surowiec Substation since 1999 to identify any increases in sound levels from sound producing substation equipment. At the last meeting the Board asked if CMP intends to continue this annual monitoring program. CMP will continue to conduct annual sound monitoring at the Surowiec Substation to detect any increases in sound level from the substation equipment and verify compliance with the Town's noise standard. The results of this yearly monitoring program will be provided to the Town.

5. Herbicide Spraying Notification Procedures

During the last meeting the Board asked if CMP would provide additional notification of planned herbicide applications within its transmission line corridor through the placement of signs. CMP will provide the Town of Pownal with an annual notification letter identifying the planned herbicide application work for the year including the CMP transmission line section number(s) where this work is planned and the estimated start date of the herbicide application work. In addition, CMP will also place signs on the first transmission line pole encountered at each public road crossing. These signs will identify CMP and list the herbicide application date and the products used.

6. Updated Substation Site Plan

Since the time of the original filing in December 2009, CMP's engineers have made some minor modifications to the cable trench layout that is shown on site plan filed with the Board. In addition, CMP has also removed the landscape buffer shown on the original site plan now that a dedicated substation buffer plan has been prepared. CMP has provided the Board with an updated Surowiec Substation Site Plan (sheet 166247-SUR-C2) in Attachment 4.

7. Updated Runaround Brook Restoration Plan

TRC has been developing a stream restoration plan for Runaround Brook in consultation with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The Runaround Brook Restoration Plan has been approved by the DEP and a copy is provided in Attachment 5 of this letter. TRC has also provided a copy of a summary memo that was prepared for the vegetation survey conducted by TRC along the proposed realignment of Runaround Brook.

We look forward to discussing this issue with the Planning Board again on Wednesday, May 19, 2010.

Sincerely,



Richard C. Paquette, Jr., PWS
Senior Environmental Scientist

Attachment 1

**Surowiec Substation
Buffer Planting Plan**

Surowiec Substation Expansion Buffer Planting Plan

May, 2010

Prepared for:
Central Maine Power Company
Maine Power Reliability Program

Prepared by:
Terrence J. DeWan & Associates
Landscape Architects and Planners
121 West Main Street
Yarmouth, ME 04096

EXISTING CONDITIONS

The existing Central Maine Power Company (CMP) Surowiec Substation is located on a 6± acre relatively flat site off Allen Road in Pownal. There are currently two 345 kV transmission lines and seven 115kV transmission lines entering the substation from the east and west. The Maine Power Reliability Program (MPRP) in Pownal involves the construction of two new 345 kV transmission lines and the realignment and rebuild of portions of existing 345 kV and 115 kV transmission lines within the Segment 17, Segment 18, and Segment 16 corridors. The Surowiec Substation will be expanded by an additional 3.5 acres on the north and east sides of the existing facility. The existing substation has approximately 700 feet of frontage on Allen Road that will be expanded by approximately 215 feet.

The west and north sides of the substation are surrounded by open fields, wet meadows, and minimal vegetation. The east and south sides (between transmission lines) are vegetated with 40 to 60 feet tall evergreen trees and deciduous shrubs. There are no significant trees or landscape features in the area that will be disturbed by the proposed expansion.

Approximately 24 cedar trees had been planted previously between the substation fence and the edge of the Allen Road ROW to buffer the existing substation. These trees have been heavily browsed by deer and are missing most of their lower branches. These trees will be removed prior to the installation of the proposed plantings.

There are a few homes on Fickett Road located 0.3 miles to the north that currently have views of the substation. The homes on Sweetser Road to the south do not have views of the substation due to intervening vegetation. The majority of those who see the substation are motorists on Allen Road.

PROPOSED CONDITIONS

CMP proposes to install a naturalized visual buffer between Allen Road and the substation to screen it from the public right-of-way and to minimize the adverse effect on the scenic character of the surrounding area in conformance with the Site Location of Development Law and Pownal's Site Plan Review Ordinance. The proposed plantings, as shown on the Buffer Planting Plan, take into consideration the need for proper setbacks from the substation, its access roads, and Allen Road; height limitations on plantings within transmission line corridors; and visibility requirements for security.

The individual shrubs called for in the Buffer Planting Plan are keyed into the Plant List, which identifies the proposed shrubs (with both common and scientific names) and provides the quantities, size at time of installation, and anticipated mature height and spread of each. The Planting Plan also includes outline specifications and notes to provide guidance for the contractor to use in the installation of the plantings.

Plant material for the buffer was selected from the approved plant list included in the Roadside Visual Buffer Report. The plant materials proposed for the Surowiec Substation

are considered non-capable with maximum mature heights of 10 feet or less. All proposed vegetation is native, road salt tolerant, adaptable to poor soils, and generally not attractive to deer as a food source. The plant list includes deciduous and evergreen shrubs arranged in naturalistic drifts. The plantings will provide seasonal interest and offer some habitat and food supply for birds. Most of the shrubs will be planted in mulch beds to minimize weed growth and preserve soil moisture.

Attachment 2

Updated Project Map

Attachment 3

Replacement Reactor Specifications

Attachment 4

Updated Surowiec Substation Site Plan

Attachment 5

**Runaround Brook Restoration Plan
& Vegetation Inventory Summary**